



Town of
Westford
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

October 2013



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



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Reminder:
Town Meeting is
October 21st—22nd



Watch Meetings Online

westford
CAT

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On October 1st our town held a Minot's Corner groundbreaking, which was attended by State Senator Eileen Donoghue, State Representative Jim Arciero, Board of Selectmen Chair Kelly Ross, and Planning Board Chair Mike Green, along with many other local officials and attendees. This \$4.7M project involves reconstruction and widening of the Littleton Rd (Route 110) / Boston Rd / Carlisle Rd signalized intersection to improve capacity and safety. An additional lane will be added to each approach to facilitate greater capacity and queue for the intersection. Sidewalks will be added and improved throughout the corridor. Overall intersection operations and safety will be improved, including an upgrade to the



Minot's Corner Groundbreaking

existing water distribution system, and better storm water management to protect nearby natural resources. Construction is being funded by a combination of federal, state, and municipal monies, along with donations from local businesses, with the majority of funds coming from the State Transportation Improvement Program. For additional information and project updates, please visit our construction website: www.westfordma.gov/110.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and our Westford firefighters are showing their support for this important cause by wearing pink uniform shirts during the month.

On October 10th the Westford Coalition of Non-Violence and the Live for Liv Foundation is co-sponsoring an event called "Take Back the Night", which will be held at the Abbot School, 25 Depot Street from 6:30-9:00 pm. This event is an internationally held rally intended to encourage communities to come together to speak out against sexual assault and domestic violence.

Our Economic Development Committee successfully received donations from several local businesses to produce a Business and Community Guide which should be published in January.

We recently received \$199,004 from FEMA and MEMA for the blizzard which produced 28" of snow last February.

A historic home on Chamberlain Road will be moved across the street on October 29th with a rain date of October 30th. The town is assisting the coordination of this effort with the homeowner, utility companies, public safety and the schools. Updates about the move will be available on our town's [house move website](#).

(continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Board of Selectmen proclaimed October 24th United Nations Day in honor of the United Nations being formed in 1945 and the anniversary of the day on which the UN Charter came into force is observed on October 24th. The central role of the UN is to promote peace and security, development and human rights around the world.

Our [fall special town meeting](#) will be held on October 21, 2013 (and October 22nd if the business is not concluded on the first night) in the Abbot School Gymnasium. The warrant includes 22 articles as summarized below:

- Article 1:** Fiscal Year 2014 budget adjustments: transfers from Free Cash \$200,000 to Legal Services for the Newport Materials litigation; \$2,900 to Recycling for expenses related to hazardous materials collection, \$20,000 to Veterans' Services for expenses related to Veteran's benefits; and \$13,187 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to supplement the Water Department Enterprise Debt Service.
- Article 2:** To pay a prior year's unpaid bill due to W.B. Mason for \$264.03.
- Article 3:** To transfer \$85,045.11 from perchlorate stabilization to the perchlorate remediation account to pay for DEP required cleanup expenses.
- Article 4:** To appropriate \$161,739.35 from the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program through our former health insurance carrier, to reduce health insurance premiums for retirees, employees and the town for one month.
- Article 5:** To rescind prior authorized amounts to be borrowed, that were in excess of what was needed for projects already completed.
- Article 6:** To seek capital funds to improve the safety of preschoolers' van drop off at the Millennium School, and to improve the drainage of the Abbot School parking lot.
- Article 7:** To seek funding for window replacement at the Day and Robinson Schools (matching funding are being applied for through the Mass School Building Authority).
- Article 8:** To transfer a parcel located on Boston Road to allow for the construction of a new Center Fire Station, and the appropriation of funds for a Feasibility Study and Schematic Design for this project, including recommendations for reuse of the current center fire station.
- Article 9:** To transfer the following available funds to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2014: \$32,793.59 from Fund Balance Designated for Debt Exclusion Reduction and \$1,995,414.45 from Free Cash.
- Article 10:** To approve the recommendations of the Westford Community Preservation Committee, appropriating \$136,000 for structural repairs to the Westford Museum, and \$15,134 for support to the Historical Commission to apply for Massachusetts Preservation Proposal Funds for additional funding for the Westford Museum.
- Article 11:** To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter an amendment to the service agreement between the town and Covanta Haverhill Associates (dated July 1, 2010) for the disposal of solid waste. This amendment would extend the term of the service agreement from five years to eight years, to expire on June 30, 2018.
- Article 12:** To amend General Bylaw Chapter 114, Junk Dealers, to regulate the use of drop boxes (also known as unattended donation receptacles). The language is on file with the Town Clerk and on the town's website.
- Article 13:** To amend General Bylaw Chapter 80, Demolition Delay; the language is on file with the Town Clerk and on the town's website.
- Article 14:** To delete and replace the General Bylaw Chapter 61, Hazardous Materials Storage; the language is on file with the Town Clerk, the Board of Health Department, and on the town's website.
- Article 15:** To adopt the "Stretch Energy Code" as set forth in the State Building Code at 780 CMR 120.AA (i.e., Appendix 120.AA), and to amend our General Bylaws by inserting a new Chapter entitled "Stretch Energy Code." This is a requirement of becoming a "Green Community" and the language is on file with the Town Clerk and on the town's website.
- Article 16:** Citizen's petition - to amend our General Bylaws to add a new Chapter entitled Feeding or Baiting of Wildlife (Waterfowl and Bear); the language is on file with the Town Clerk and on the town's website.

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Article 17: To amend Section 5.3 of the Westford Zoning Bylaws to replace the Sign Bylaw in its entirety; the language is on file with the Town Clerk and on the town's website.

Article 18: To accept Boxwood Road and Strawberry Lane as public ways.

Article 19: To accept Sleigh Road as a public way.

Article 20: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift an easement at the corner of First Street and Broadway Street as shown on a plan entitled "Use Easement Broadway/First Street," dated July 23, 2013, on file with the Town Clerk and on our website.

Article 21: This article will be dismissed.

Article 22: Citizen's petition - to transfer the care and custody of the so-called "Edwards Parcel" being approximately 40 acres from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission; said parcel to be kept as conservation land.

I hope to see you at town meeting!

Sincerely,



Register to Vote at The Town Clerk's Office Until 8:00PM On Friday, October 11, 2013 for Special Town Meeting

If you have recently moved to or within Westford and have not yet registered to vote, stop by the Town Clerk's Office before the October 11th 8:00pm deadline and you will be able to participate in the October 21st Special Town meeting. You may also register to vote by mail, but forms must be postmarked by the October 11th deadline.

Download a [Mail-in Voter Registration Form](#).

If you will be 18 on or before October 21, 2013, you are a U.S. citizen and you live in Westford, you are eligible to register to vote in Westford.

Learn more about [Town Meeting](#). Questions? Please contact the Town Clerk's Office, 978-692-5515.

Fire Department News

Firefighters Support Cancer Awareness

For the month of October, Westford Firefighters are wearing pink shirts to raise awareness in support of the fight against breast cancer and other cancers. The awareness campaign is one that the full-time firefighters union, & International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), encourages its affiliates to conduct in support of the fight against breast and other cancers. This will be the Firefighters first year wearing the shirts to show their support. Westford Firefighters are also supporting breast cancer awareness and prevention with a donation to the Susan G. Komen foundation.



Council On Aging - Coming Events

RESOURCE FAIR - Friday, October 18th from 9 AM - 2:50 PM

Participants may sign up for any speakers that are of interest, or may sign up for all. Please call 978-692-5523 to register. **Program is Free:**

9:00 - 9:50 John Hollosy, a Financial Advisor and Certified Estate Planner, will discuss optimizing your social security and health care decisions as retirement approaches and maximize your assets in retirement.	10:00 - 10:50 Gary St. Martin/John Downey from REMAX will discuss the benefits of working with a trained, designated and licensed Senior Real Estate Specialist, SRES; they will tell you who can offer answers about the financial requirements of adult community living; and how to decide whether to put your home on the market.
11:00 - 11:50 Attorney Michael Dellamonica will address asset preservation – preserving a legacy for your family, and not the courts or the nursing home.	12:00 - 12:50 Dixie Edmond, from Visiting Rehab Services of Littleton, will present Remaining Safely in Your Home as You Age. As part of the normal aging process, with natural changes in vision, mobility, and agility, our abilities to manage some daily activities can diminish. Changes or assistance may be necessary to enable you to live safely and independently at home.
1:00 - 1:50 Life Care Center of Littleton will present Five Wishes, a talk about considering and documenting your wishes related to care later in life.	2:00 - 2:50 Greg Page of Merrimack Analysis Group will present "Cyber-crime Prevention for Seniors." He will cover the basics of cybercrime, recent statistics and trends, news about current scams (especially those that target seniors in particular), and prevention/mitigation strategies.

HARVEST FAIR

Come and support the Friends of Cameron and start your holiday shopping early.

Friday and Saturday, October 25th and 26th from 8 AM - 2 PM

white elephant table, bake sale, jewelry, Cameron apparel, Cat's Meow, handmade and quilted items, raffles, silent auction and food (hot dogs, soda, donuts and coffee).

Tables available to rent, please call 978-692-5523 for application.

MUSIC IS LOVE

Music, Magic & Comedy Show - **Friday, November 1st from 2 - 3 PM**

The name says it all - music, magic and comedy. Dick Miller and Dawn Kelley are traveling to Cameron to perform their popular variety show. Enjoy music from the 1920s through the 1960s as well as dancing, comedic relief and magic from Dick, a professional magician. Come sing along, dance or simply enjoy– it's a great way to kick off your weekend! Light refreshments will be served. RSVP required.

To save your spot, please call the Front Desk at 978.692.5523. Fee: \$2.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter
Please visit our website at: www.westfordma.gov/coa
and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

J. V. Fletcher Library News

Two Public Forums: The Ideal Library, a 20/20 Vision

Join us in crafting a vision
of the future ideal Westford Public library.

Wednesday, October 23 @ 7:00 PM &
Saturday, November 16 @ 1:00 PM



*Magical entry-way to the newly designed Children's Room
in the Brentwood Public Library, TN.*

Consultant Cheryl Bryan will conduct thoughtful exercises
to guide us to this end.

We will view inspired new and renovated libraries,
and discuss what would constitute **YOUR IDEAL LIBRARY.**

Open to all - Refreshments will be served - Ground floor meeting room

Health Department News

LAST SCHEDULED FLU CLINIC

Thus far we have immunized over 1300 residents at our public flu clinics. This is a reminder that our last scheduled clinic is:

Thursday, Oct. 17: 6:00-8:00 pm @ Millennium School Walk-In

Homebound individuals, who require a home visit, should contact the Health Department at 978-692-5509 to schedule an appointment.

School-based flu clinics *will* be offered again this year to all Westford Public School students this Fall. The FluMist Quadrivalent* nasal spray will be the only form of vaccine offered. Details (including dates and restrictions) will be sent to parents via the WPS Billboard listserv, WPS Superintendent's email, and the Westford Board of Health listserv. Information will not be mailed to the students' homes.

(The 2013-2014 vaccine provides protection against an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus; an H3N2 virus antigenically like the cell propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011; and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus.)

These vaccines will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. It takes up to 2 weeks or more for protection to develop after the vaccine. Protection lasts about a year.

Anyone with an allergy to egg cannot receive this vaccine at one of our public clinics.

Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for **everyone 6 months of age and older**. Everyone, regardless of prior vaccination, will need to be revaccinated to be protected this year.

People at Increased Risk for Influenza-Related Complications:

- All children 6 months through 4 years of age.

- All persons \geq 50 years of age.

- People 6 months - 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.

- Women who will be pregnant during influenza season and postpartum women.

- People \geq 6 months of age who have:

 - Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hyper-tension), renal, hepatic, neurological, hematologic, or metabolic disorders, including diabetes;

 - Immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV);

 - Any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk of aspiration.

- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

- American Indians/Alaska Natives

- People who are morbidly obese (BMI \geq 40)

To get up to date information during the flu season , visit the Health Department website at http://westfordma.gov/pages/government/towndepartments/WestfordMA_healthcare/index or sign up for our listserv at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber

Health Department News (continued)

SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Please join a support group designed to offer both education and to form a supportive community for parents challenged with raising children struggling with mental health issues. Your neighbors, friends and others in town all have children with differences—come together and gain information and some skills to help your child. Sessions are facilitated by Dianne Walsh, LICSW (Cognitive- Behavioral Therapist) and Sue Hanly, RN (school nurse/parent of a child with mental health issues).

Dates and Topics:

10/15 “You Can’t Make Me, You Can’t Stop Me” ODD (oppositional defiant disorder) - When your children think THEY have the power - how to change the power dynamics in the family.



11/12 Substance Abuse and Mental Health - When is smoking pot or a few beers ok? When is it self-medicating?

12/10 Holiday Struggles - Depression, Anxiety, Holiday stress - living with mental health issues during the holidays?

Location: Millennium School (behind Abbot)- Large All Purpose Room

Time: 7:00 pm -8:30 pm

Format: The first half will be educational and the last half will be to talk and discuss issues.

National Drug Take Back Day

This is a great time to clean out those medicine cabinets and get rid of expired drugs or over the counter medications. The Health Dept. will also accept, from Westford residents only, used syringes, needles, and lancets. Please ensure that they are brought in a puncture proof container (such as a detergent bottle) and placed in the smallest containers possible. This will help minimize costs associated with disposal.

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, October 26th,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Police Station Lobby,
Accessible from Town Hall lot,
55 Main St.



This event is co-sponsored by the Westford Police Dept., the Westford Health Dept. and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Health Department News (continued)



When should you wash your hands?

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- Before and after treating a cut or wound.

What is the right way to wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- Rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well; be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry.

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Recycling Commission - Fall Recycling Tips

Toss water bottles, juice boxes, scrap paper, and cardboard including clean pizza boxes in the recycling bin.

Need an upgrade from a recycling bin to a wheeled toter? It is optional, but you can buy your own 64-gallon recycling toter by sending a check for \$45 payable to the Westford Recycling Commission to the Recycling Commission, Town Hall, 55 Main Street.

Deposit outgrown clothes in the textile recycling bins placed around town or donate to one of the charities that pick-up from your curb, such as Big Brother or the Epilepsy Foundation.

Compost your garden cleanup and kitchen fruit and vegetable scraps.

To buy an Earth Machine for \$45, call 978-692-6986. You will help Westford save money by not adding weight to the trash. Every ton of trash collected costs Westford an additional \$73 over the annual contract fee.

Saturday night, November 2, set clocks back one hour (fall back) to Eastern Standard Time.

Change the batteries in your detectors. Alkaline batteries can go in the trash. To recycle button batteries, lithium, and rechargeables, go to www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

Fall Dates to Remember

October 19	Brush chipping: 10:30 - 4:30 at the Westford Highway Department. \$10 cash per load. Westford residents only.
	Recycle Your Reusables: 9:00 - 2:00 at the Ayer-Shirley Regional Middle School, Ayer, MA. Accepted: Styrofoam, household goods, textiles, books, sporting goods, electronics, and much more. For information: http://recycleyourreusables.wordpress.com .
October 26	Used Bicycles Collection, 9:00 - 3:00 at Westford Academy. \$10 donation. www.bikesnotbombs.org
	National Prescription Drug Take - Back Day, 10:00 - 2:00. Westford Police Station. Turn in your unused or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal, no questions asked.
November 9 and December 7	Fee only Curbside Leaf Collection: Cost and bagging details at www.westfordma.gov/recycling . Other leaf disposal options are also on the website.

Check for other area events at: <http://thegreeningofwestford.com/upcoming-events>.

Ongoing Collections

- Used shoes that are still wearable, all kinds. Leave in the donation box in the Town Hall. Sponsored by the Westford Elementary and Middle School PTO's.
- Used printer ink cartridges. Several places, including Cartridge World, 83 Parkhurst St., Unit #16, Chelmsford.
- Upcycle It! Save snack, chip, and bar wrappers, glue bottles, and pens and deposit them in Upcycle It! containers at Roudenbush or the Farmers' Market. Each wrapper means two cents toward grants for Westford schools. <http://www.sustainablewestford.org/upcycle-it/>

The Westford Recycling Commission thanks you for reducing, reusing, and recycling!

Water Department News

Fire Hydrant Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that we need your help in keeping the fire hydrants free from snow. Unlike many other towns, the Water Department is responsible for clearing hydrants of snow. With over 1,000 hydrants in town it takes us considerable time to get to them all after each major snow storm. The more help we get from folks the quicker we can get them cleared and easily accessible in the event of an emergency. The last thing anyone wants is to have to search for a buried hydrant during an emergency.

Also—please remember that: In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 27B it is unlawful to pile, push, or plow snow or ice on or against any fire hydrant in any public or private way.

Please make sure not to shovel, plow, or blow snow onto the hydrants when clearing your property! The Westford Water Department not only digs out hydrants after the storm, but also annually inspects each fire hydrant, and notifies the Fire Department if any are out of service.



Not just in winter...

Fire hydrants need to be visible and accessible year round, and they can become just as easily obscured by vegetation as with snow. While the Water Department is responsible for maintaining fire hydrant accessibility, we could use your help not only during the winter but all year round. If you have a hydrant on or near your property – and you are able, try to keep it from being overgrown. Also, please do not arrange plantings too close to the hydrant. Remember – they need to be accessible and easy to spot during an emergency.



Please help keep hydrants visible year round.